

## Quarterly Report for July-September, 2014

### Accomplishments

#### Premiere of documentary film: "Swains Island: One of the Last Jewels of the Planet"

A full house of 200 people participated on August 21st at the Ocean Center for the premier Jean Michel Cousteau's film "Swains Island: One of the Last Jewels of the Planet". The film is narrated by and features footage of Jean-Michel Cousteau exploring the land and waters of this unique island surrounded by coral reef and an encompassing a freshwater lake. Written and filmed by Jim Knowlton, it takes viewers on a tour of the island from the perspective of the Jennings family, owners of the island for four generations, and it incorporates the research findings of a team of scientists on an expedition to document archeological artifacts, geological history, and reef health. Jean Michel Cousteau, Sylvia Earle, Jim Knowlton,

navigator Nainoa Thompson, and Dan Basta were guests of honor at the premiere, which was well-received by all attendees, especially the former Swains Island residents. The film is a finalist at the Blue Ocean Film Festival in the People and the Ocean category November 3-9<sup>th</sup> in St Petersburg, Florida

#### Arrival Ceremony for the Worldwide Voyage of the Hōkūle'a & Hikianalia

American Samoa received the worldwide voyage voyaging vessel, Hōkūle'a and it's support boat Hikianalia on a Mālama Honua sail that will take them around the world by 2017. The National Marine Sanctuary of AS organized the official greeting and traditional 'ava ceremony and greeted the crews of the Hōkūle'a and its sister vessel, the Hikianalia. The greeting procession involved two traditional Samoan fautasi longboats, 4 outrigger canoes welcoming the vessels, and transport to shore where the vessel crews performed a 'mele" or chant while



Photo: NMSAS

Jean Michel-Cousteau at the "Swains Island: One of the Last Jewels of the Planet" premier.



Photo: NMSAS

"Swains Island: One of the Last Jewels of the Planet" film premier.



Photo: NMSAS

Ocean Star Program, first swimming lesson.



The Ocean Star program is a 4 week curriculum course where 35 registered kids between the ages of 10-12 attended this past summer. The 4 week lesson plan focused on coral reefs, marine animals, threats, and what we can do to help. The kids participated in hands on activities, field trips, listened to guest speakers from other agencies, and learned how to swim with the American Samoa Aquatics Association (ASAA) during this summer program, as well as had topics such as Ocean Safety, Connection between land and ocean, Marine Debris, marine life and much more.

Students took a Pre- and Post- test, to evaluate learning progress during this program. All of the students improved drastically, passing with flying colors! As a culminating event, they shared what they learned and had fun under the sun!



the arrival delegation of chiefs, honored this event with a traditional ava ceremony. The event was followed by performances by Swains island community, AS Community College and the crews ended with their own chant of thanks, American Samoa Community College, and the crews of the visiting vessels. Nainoa Thompson, the head Polynesian Voyaging Society and master navigator, delivered comments, along with the two captains of the arriving sailing canoes. The event drew spectators from across the island and widespread press coverage. The vessels will continue westward to Samoa and on across the Pacific, ultimately returning to Hawaii in three years

### Wyland paints with local students

Renowned Marine Muralist, Wyland paints a wall I at the Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center, dedicated to the crew members of the Hokule'a and more specifically to a "champion for the ocean, Nainoa Thompson in August. Over 100 people attended a ceremony that also recognized the contributions of local artist Regina Meredith and 3 of her students. A total of 85 students and teachers from Pacific Horizons, South Pacific Academy, Samoa Baptist Academy and Fa'asao High School were present to paint alongside Wyland on 6 large canvases. Each school took a completed canvas back to their

educational facility to commemorate this historical event.

### National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa Welcome the SSV Seamans

On August 11th, 2014, the Sea Education Association's vessel, the *SSV Seamans*, arrived in Pago Pago, American Samoa. After 3 years of work with Semester at Sea Association (SEA) collaboration, we were pleased with the arrival for a six week stay by the SSV Robert Seamans tall ship in August. The NMS of American Samoa organized and hosted alongside the SEA crew, several days of programs for the American Samoan community. Local



Photo: NMSAS

Hökūle'a & Hikianalia crew with Lt. Gov. Lemanu and wife with guests



Photo: NMSAS

Hökūle'a and Hikianalia crew chanting, asking permission to come on shore.



Photo: NMSAS

Wyland painting with local students



high school and college students, and the general community were welcomed on board for dockside tours and day sails. The *SSV Robert Seamans* ship and completed programs inspired over 400 people, by providing meaningful personal experiences that link study and care of the coasts and oceans with their own futures.

The *SSV Seamans* is a 134-foot steel brigantine and is the most sophisticated oceanographic research/sailing school vessel ever built in the United States. Improvements in design and equipment, including a wet/dry laboratory and larger library, classroom, and computer laboratory, enhance the SEA academic program.

### Dive American Samoa Exhibit Opening

The National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa dedicated a new exhibit at the Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center. The exhibit is called "DIVE American Samoa" to inspire people to explore the underwater world of the sanctuary areas within the NMS. The display contains a description of all gear required to scuba dive, and a quote by the famous marine biologist, her deepness, Dr. Sylvia Earle, and a mannequin wearing scuba diving gear with a beautiful backdrop of American Samoa's underwater tropical reef as a scene. Dedication of this exhibit was led by oceanographer, explorer, author, marine biologist, Dr. Sylvia Earle; French explorer, environmentalist, educator, and film producer Jean-Michel Cousteau; Native Hawaiian navigator and the president of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, Nainoa Thompson; and the Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Dan Basta.

### Sanctuary Advisory Council New Member Orientation Meetings

The National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa held its Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting in August, where 7 new voting members were inducted. New members include representatives for the following seats: Fishing (2), Education, Research, Tourism, Diving, and Community-at-Large (East Tutuila). The Council meeting allowed sanctuary team members to brief the Council on sanctuary programs, the council charter, council member roles and responsibilities, and council and meeting operations. Also on the agenda was a call to action joint statement developed by the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee and the National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils "Destination Marine Protected Areas: Sustaining America's Most treasured Ocean Places for Recreation and Stewardship."

### The National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa and the Polynesian Voyaging Society Outreach Event

The National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa hosted a community event to bridge understanding on Polynesian Voyaging Society's voyaging and navigation education outreach efforts in the territory. On Saturday, September 20 the community were treated to tours on the canoes, *Hōkūle'a* and *Hikianalia*, and had an opportunity to learn wayfinding navigating techniques. The sanctuary and Polynesian Voyaging Society have a shared goal of "Mālama Honua" or care for earth. While the crews were on island, they also visited seven local schools which included Fa'asao Marist High School, Lupelele Elementary, A.P Lutali Elementary in Aunu'u, Leone High School, Leone Midkiff Elementary, Faga'itua High School and Matātula Elementary. The



Photo: NMSAS

*RV Robert C. Seamans* crew showing guests how to set sail



Photo: NMSAS

The arrival of *RV Robert C. Seamans*



Photo: NMSAS

(l-to-r) Dan Basta, Sylvia Earle and Jean Michel-Cousteau cuts ribbon for Dive Exhibit dedication.



Photo: NMSAS

Sanctuary Advisory Council induction August 2014

school visits shared with youth the importance of 'caring for island earth' (Mālama Honua) – how to live sustainably while sharing Polynesian culture, learning from the past and from each other, creating global relationships, and discovering the wonders of this precious place we call home. The use of the stars, moon, sun, clouds, ocean swells, seabird behavior and other natural patterns to navigate traditionally had been an area of great interest to all students.

### Sphere Casting & Google Hangout

Months of planning by representatives from Hawaii's DOE, NOAA-Pacific Services Center, Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS), and National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (NMSAS) to coordinate Sphere Casts & Google Hangout activities/presentations were finally executed in September with schools and teachers of American Samoa connecting and sharing ideas and lessons about taking care of our environment and sustaining vital resources with students and teachers in Hawaii and Tahiti.

On September 23rd, there was a teacher-teacher interaction (via Google Hangout) between American Samoa, Tahiti, and Hawaii. This was an opportunity for teachers from all three islands to share how they can implement or incorporate "Mālama Honua,"/"take care of the island earth" into classrooms.



Photo: NMSAS

Samoana High School and Farrington High School on their first google hangout



Photo: NMSAS

PVS crew giving kids a tour on Hikianalia



Photo: NMSAS

Polynesian Voyaging Society crew visiting local schools

On September 25th, Kalisi Mausio, NOAA-NOS's Coastal Management representative from Hawaii, used the Science On a Sphere® to present on climate change and connecting Mālama Honua's mission to a local school in American Samoa with two schools from Hawaii. Schools were able to connect via Google Hangout.

Samoana High School and Pacific Horizon from American Samoa connected with Farrington High School (from Hawaii) to share and compare limu (seaweed) found in their islands on September 26th. Students shared and asked/answered questions about their limu projects. Their next Google Hangout will be a virtual field trip, where Farrington will take the two local high schools to Coconut Island next month!

### The National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa and the Polynesian Voyaging Society Outreach Event

The National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa hosted a community event to bring attention to the Polynesian Voyaging Society's education outreach efforts in the territory. On September 20th the community was treated to tours on the canoes, Hōkūle'a and Hikianalia, and had an opportunity to learn about wayfinding navigating techniques. The sanctuary and Polynesian Voyaging Society both promote common conservation

For more information, please visit  
Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center  
or call 633-6500





## Upcoming



### Swains Island Film Festival

In honoring one of the finalist film for the BLUE 2014 FILM FESTIVAL, *Swains Island: One of the Last Jewels of the Planet*, the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa will be playing the 1-hr. documentary from October 27<sup>th</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014 (showing times are 10am and 12pm). Admission is free!

Come join ocean explorer Jean-Michel Cousteau and a team of scientists as they explore tiny Swains Island, located 200 miles north of American Samoa and reachable only by boat. Jean-Michel dives its pristine coral reefs that he says are as healthy as you can find. The scientists search for clues to the Island's past use, especially by early Polynesians that settled the Island and used it as a stopover to reach distant

Islands, and also when it was used as a family-owned copra plantation. They uncover many mysteries long-held on this tiny island in this fascinating Jean-Michel Cousteau adventure.

### Mini-Marine Film Fest



On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>, the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa will be playing short films on the Science-on-a-Sphere, highlighting the National Marine Sanctuaries System and the importance of our ocean.

Show times:  
11am-1pm and 2pm-4pm

### NMSAS on Google Map (land and sea)



On December 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> 2014, a team of Catlin Seaview Survey together with Papahānaumokuākea Monument staff member (Google Street View Trekker) Kalewa Correa will be capturing land (Google Street View) and ocean (Catlin) images of Muliava and Ta'u. Having units from the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa available on Google Street View and revealing the world's coral reefs in high-resolution, 360-degree panoramic vision will provide people around the world with panoramic views of our treasured gems.



For more information contact:  
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